Tussock Moth B. Ev. Mgmt Proj

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREST SERVICE
Region 3

NOV 7 1979

REPLY TO: 3430 Evaluation

SUBJECT: Douglas-fir Tussock Moth

TO: Forest Supervisor, Cibola NF

Since 1975, the Douglas-fir tussock moth, Orgyia pseudotsugata (McD.), caused localized Douglas-fir and white fir defoliation in Trigo Canyon, Mountainair Ranger District. Tree mortality was extensive in the canyon with all the tree species on the lower to midslopes of the canyon being killed. The infestation and subsequent mortality continued into 1979, but at a much lower level than in previous years (refer to letter of July 25, 1979, 3420, Aerial Survey).

On October 18, entomologists Douglas Parker and Terry Rogers examined trees in Trigo Canyon for DFTM egg masses. This examination was conducted to determine the infestation trend for 1980. The purpose of this letter is to document the results of this examination.

The remaining host species on the mid and upper slopes of the canyon were visually examined for new DFTM egg masses and cocoons. When egg masses were observed, they were collected to determine percent parasitism.

Results of the evaluation indicate a decrease in the severity of the tussock moth outbreak. Although egg masses and cocoons were observed on the mid and upper slopes of the canyon, egg masses and cocoon densities were low. As a result of the low number of egg masses observed this fall, defoliation to the remaining host species on the mid and upper slopes of the canyon is expected to be light in 1980.

We do not recommend that any pest management action be taken in response to this outbreak.

Don Graham

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Director
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cc: TM, R-3
WO
RM

TRRogers:pkb 11/5/79